

Rehab the LAB



A Program to Help
Eliminate Hazardous Waste
from Your School



Produced by the
Local Hazardous Waste
Management Program
In King County

Quick Information References

- To schedule a free, classroom program on household hazardous waste for your students call:
(206) 263-3082 or email gail.gensler@metrokc.gov
- For library help on topics related to hazardous waste call:
(206) 263-3051 or email haz.waste@metrokc.gov
- For King County's website related to hazardous waste go to:
<http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/>
- For the teacher section of King County's website related to hazardous waste go to:
<http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/teachers/>
- For laboratory management guidelines in King County go to:
<http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/lhwmp/replab2.html>
- For the Guide to the Best Biology and Chemistry Educational Resources on the Web go to:
<http://schmidel.com/bionet/chem.htm>
- For summaries of laboratory chemical safety data go to:
<http://www.hhmi.org/science/labsafe/lcss/index.html>
- For some true, colorful stories about local chemistry labs go to:
<http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/lhwmp/vignettes.html>

Welcome to Rehab the Lab—your chance to expel those stockpiled and hazardous chemicals that have spent years hanging around your lab and your school.



Rehab the Lab is a one-time service to all King County middle and high schools, provided by the County's Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP). It's the only program in the State to pay 100% of the costs to dispose of old, hazardous, or waste chemicals from schools and to help science teachers develop safe, compatible storage for the chemicals they will continue to use.

We at Rehab the Lab want to work side-by-side with you to remove chemical hazards from your school, and to maximize the safety—and earthquake preparedness—of your chemical storage area and disposal. It's easy to participate, and it won't touch your budget. You'll gain a safer school for you and your students, and more room to teach in.

This pamphlet will give you details on how the program operates, the services we provide, and what you'll need to do to participate. We look forward to working with you!

Rehab the Lab On-Site Consulting Team
(206) 263-3090
e-mail dave.waddell@metrokc.gov



What Services Does Rehab the Lab Provide?

Rehab the Lab will provide your school with a progression of services:



- Site visits by a hazardous waste consultant to inventory your chemicals, target those needing disposal, and set up safe storage for remaining chemicals.
- A list of hazardous waste haulers (or vendors) who are qualified to remove the wastes and who will participate at the program's specified rates.
- 100% payment by the LHWMP directly to the vendor for all lab-related chemical disposal. Non-lab chemicals (e.g., from art studios, vocational shops, janitorial and grounds maintenance) are covered at 50% up to \$500 through the LHWMP Voucher Incentive Program.
- A complete computerized inventory of remaining lab chemicals for your science department's use.
- A collection of popular labs that teach key chemistry concepts while reducing hazardous waste. More information is available from your On-Site Consultant.

Most of these services are described in further detail in this pamphlet.

How Does My School Participate?

You'll need to do the following:



- Make time available for the site visit(s), so that you and/or the science department chairperson are present. (For details on the site visit, see page 4.)
- Be willing to sign pledges committing your school to improved hazardous chemical management practices. Your school's pledges can be chosen from a list of options. (For details, see page 7.)
- Make arrangements with a vendor to pack, remove, and dispose of your waste chemicals. We'll give you a list of available vendors and suggested questions to ask them.



Step-By-Step, Here's What to Expect When You Rehab Your Lab.

1

Call or e-mail us, and arrange a site visit by an On-Site Consultant when you or your science chairperson can be present. Phone (206) 263-3090 or e-mail dave.waddell@metrokc.gov.

2

The Consultant will visit your lab to identify all high-risk chemicals and count all chemical containers. On a subsequent visit, a consultant will visit other school departments such as the photo lab, auto shop, and janitorial supply room to ensure that their hazardous materials and wastes are safely managed. (Large quantities of materials might require a second visit to mark all the containers for disposal.)

3

The Consultant will send written observations and recommendations to your school within three weeks of the visit. If there are hazardous waste issues in non-lab areas, the Consultant will explain how to qualify for matching reimbursement of disposal costs under the LHWMP's Voucher Incentive Program. For questions about the Voucher Incentive Program, talk to the On-Site Consultant or call Patrick Hoermann at (206) 263-3038.

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Next, your school will need to choose several pledges from a list of options (see page 7). The pledges commit your school to adopting specific recommendations in order to improve hazardous chemical management. The Consultant will explain the pledge requirement, and help you develop a plan for executing the pledges you select. The LHWMP team will give you technical assistance in putting the pledges into practice. You and your principal, (and, in the case of some pledges, your district representative) must sign the pledge document.

5

Once the pledges are signed, the Consultant will give you a list of vendors and the rates per container the program will cover. You contact a vendor—we suggest calling several to ask about their services and rates—and arrange for them to come to your school and haul your wastes.

6

The vendor will package and remove your chemicals. (Note that this will likely be done during business hours, and could conflict with classes for that day.) He or she will also give you waste containers for your future needs. The vendor will send copies of the manifests and the bill to the LHWMP for review and payment. The LHWMP pays them directly.

7

The Consultant will follow up with a post-disposal visit. He or she will work with you and other science teachers to segregate all remaining chemicals under the Flinn Catalog/JT Baker storage system. Then the Consultant will give the chairperson of your science department a computer disk containing a complete inventory of remaining chemicals in Excel spreadsheet format.

8

Your lab is safe and spacious, and you have the tools to keep it that way.



What We Need From You and Your School



Rehab the Lab wants to help you achieve the safest lab conditions possible. Because properly disposing of stockpiled chemicals can decimate the average science department budget, we know that providing financial assistance is crucial. But we're only doing half our job if we merely cover the costs for this one-time removal. Our goal is to help you maintain the utmost lab safety by encouraging you to select several recommended practices for hazardous chemical management and hazardous waste reduction.

As you review the pledge options on the next page, keep in mind that Rehab the Lab will give you the technical assistance you need to put these pledges into practice.

To receive the chemical disposal services, your school must:

- receive a site visit;
- adopt all three "required" pledges; and
- incorporate at least two of the "strongly recommended" pledges.

For the pledge to be valid and complete, we will need the signatures of a representative from the administrative or district level, the principal, and a science teacher. The full pledge agreement with signatory lines will be provided to you by the On-Site Consultant during your school visit.

If you have questions about the pledges, call the On-Site Consulting Team at (206) 263-3090.

Pledge Chart

REQUIRED PLEDGES	GOAL
Commit to proper disposal of hazardous waste.	School meets legal requirements to properly dispose of hazardous waste.
Allow a complete technical assistance site audit of the whole school.	Reduce school's environmental risks from improperly managed chemicals.
Keep incompatible chemicals segregated during storage, and return bottles after use.	Safe storage of chemicals and reduced earthquake risks

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED PLEDGES Adopt Two or More	GOAL
Purchase no high risk chemicals (see list).	Reduce earthquake and accident risks and reduce liability.
Adopt at least one microscale lab.	Reduce waste and save money.
Link purchase to use. Purchase containers so contents will be used up within 5 years.	Reduce waste and save money.
Build the concepts of least-necessary amount and least-hazardous chemical option into the chemical purchasing contract.	Reduce waste and save money.
Accept no donated chemicals unless you can demonstrate they will be used up within 1 year.	Reduce waste and save money.
Complete earthquake preparedness: Lips on shelves, shelves anchored, secondary containment.	Reduce earthquake and accident risks.
Put spill supplies and procedures in place for major hazard classes of chemicals.	Reduce risk of injury and accidental contact with spilled chemicals.
Maintain documentation of hazardous waste activities (neutralization logs, waste disposal manifests).	Improve knowledge of the wastes that are being generated and where they're going.
Label all containers with chemical names and major hazard classes of chemicals.	Increase safety and reduce disposal costs.
Functional eye washes in areas of chemical use	Increase safety. Reduce liability.
Functional and tested fume hoods	Increase safety. Reduce liability.
Additional steps approved by LHWMP representative:	